

INSIDE GARDNER

Voters approve funding for a new justice center: NEXT STEPS



By fall 2019, citizens will see the brand-new Gardner Justice Center at the location of 167th and Moonlight Road. The law enforcement center will house both the police department and the municipal court, accounting for nearly 50 employees.

With 71 percent of the voters approving the funding to construct this facility, the city will build an approximately 30,000 square-foot structure. The size of the facility will address the current spacing issues and continual growth of the community as well as the police department, according to the 2015 space-needs study.

Currently, the city is finalizing an agreement with architects who will immediately start design concepts based on input from city staff of various departments, including police, court, planning, public works, and information technology.

The agreement will be presented to the Governing Body for approval in the near future.

The Gardner Public Works Department will provide oversight on the design and construction of the facility, and is currently working on a Request for Qualifications for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) role to help deliver the project. The CMAR provides professional services and acts as a consultant to the city in the design and construction phases. The CMAR manages and controls construction costs and ensures the project is delivered per timeline agreements.

While city staff moves forward on the various phases of fashioning a new Justice Center, work also continues to determine the future of the current police station. This is being done through the Main Street Corridor planning, which will help identify the best use for all properties along the corridor.

Continue to visit gardnerkansas.gov/justicecenter for the latest information.

THANK YOU, GARDNER RESIDENTS!

The men and women of the Gardner Police Department want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our residents for voting to approve the funding for a new Justice Center to house the police department and municipal court. We are humbled by the great support we receive from our community, and we will continue to do our very best to provide the best police service possible to our residents.

-Gardner Police Department

PROJECT UPDATES



HAMPTON INN (151 S. Cedar Niles) The city is reviewing the site and building plans. Infrastructure improvements have begun. Electrical and natural gas lines will be installed last. Closely following the infrastructure improvements, survey work establishing the location of the foundations will be completed. *Anticipated project completion date: late fall 2018*



DAIRY QUEEN (518 E. Main St.) Stormwater drainage work is near completion and backfill around the site continues. Site leveling and parking lot construction has started. The building has been erected. The sewer, water and electrical service is finished. *Anticipated project completion date: late fall 2017*



CVS Pharmacy (110 W. Main St.) Construction of the foundation has been started. The sewer line is completed and functioning. All excess dirt has been removed from the site. The remaining Center Street improvements will be completed when the gas and water line improvements are completed. *Anticipated project completion date: early spring 2018*



Urgent Care

First Point Urgent Care (915 E. Lincoln Lane) The City is still reviewing the application of First Point Urgent Care. Next steps include site and building plan development. *Anticipated project completion date: late fall 2018*

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant awarded



Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Meyers (L.) and Fire Chief Rob Kirk (R.) pose beside the fire station's new utility vehicle purchased with grant money awarded by Firehouse Subs.

Since 2005, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has donated more than \$28 million and fulfilled more than 2,953 grants. These grants have helped purchase lifesaving equipment and resources for first-responders.

Fire District #1 of Johnson County is the proud recipient of a 2017 Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant for \$10,340.00.

As the southwest area of Johnson County continues to grow, a majority of the area remains rural. With this generous grant, the department was able to purchase a Kawasaki Mule Pro FX Utility Vehicle (UTV).

Emergency responders will now have better access to wildland areas that, in the past, were more difficult to traverse with traditional fire apparatus. This includes faster response to patients that may be out in pasture or deep timber, in addition to wildland fires. This UTV was also purchased in preparation for the new 2,000-acre Big Bull Creek Park being built in Edgerton off Sunflower Road.

Fire District #1 of Johnson County would like to thank the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for their contribution, and making the UTV a reality for the department and our residents.

Photo and information courtesy of Fire District #1 of Johnson County and Firehouse Subs.



A message from **MAYOR CHRIS MORROW**

Greetings fellow citizens,

On August 1, Gardner voters answered this question, and yes, I'm paraphrasing: Shall the City of Gardner, Kansas, construct and equip a facility to be used as a Justice Center?

When the votes were counted, the answer was a resounding YES, with 71 percent of voters casting ballots in favor of the Justice Center.

The citizens of Gardner have long valued law and order.

Now our city can begin planning for a safe future by designing and constructing a new Justice Center facility for our Gardner Police Department and Municipal Court personnel. Gardner has long been ranked as one of the safest and most peaceful cities in the state, and this investment will go a long way toward maintaining our city's safety for many decades to come. Thank you to every Gardner citizen who took the time to vote, whether you voted for or against the Justice Center.

Our Justice Center initiative has been a whirlwind effort this year, and its approval even pushed back our

budget approval timeline. The governing body and our professional city staff, however, were able to pull all the pieces together, and we submitted our budget document by the August 25 deadline. Adopting the annual budget is the biggest policy decision city council makes on behalf of the citizens of Gardner, which is why I'm happy to report that in 2018, Gardner residents will again see no increase in their property tax rate. This is the seventh consecutive budget cycle in which there has been no increase or decrease in the city's portion of your property tax rate.

In adopting the budget, we approved our utility rates for next year. Again, I am happy to report, our utility rate payers will see no increases for water, wastewater or electric utility rates in 2018. In fact, since reorganizing our utilities into one stand-alone city department three years ago, we've maintained stable rates and excellent, award-winning service to all our utility customers.

Summer in Gardner was certainly quite busy, but with fall just a few weeks away, I hope all our residents can settle into the comfortable and familiar routines that autumn brings.

Best regards,



City introduces two new fall events



This fall, residents will be able to enjoy two new events here in Gardner: Smoke on the Trails BBQ Competition and the Grand Slam Beer and Wine Festival.

SMOKE ON THE TRAILS BBQ COMPETITION

More than 50 teams will participate in the Smoke on the Trails BBQ Competition. This Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS)-sanctioned event will take place on Sept. 29 and 30, 2017, at Celebration Park, 32501 W. 159th St. The competition serves as a qualifier for the 2018 American Royal World Series of Barbecue Competition and the Jack Daniels World Championship. From 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday, the general public is welcome to attend this family-friendly, party-atmosphere event. Attendees will be able to enjoy food from several food truck options, live music and a beer garden. (Must be at least 21 years old.) Formal BBQ judging by certified KCBS judges will begin on Saturday, Sept. 30. Teams are competing in the categories of barbecue chicken, ribs, pork and brisket. There will be winners awarded within each group.

GRAND SLAM BEER AND WINE FESTIVAL

If you're a beer and wine enthusiast of 21

years of age and older, the Grand Slam Beer and Wine Festival is the event for you! On Friday, Sept. 29, local breweries and wineries will be on hand, located in the outfields of Celebration Park, to share their creations of libations with the public. This is a ticketed event of \$20.50 per person if purchased in advance, and is limited to the first 800 adults. Participants will receive a commemorative sample glass, a program describing all beers and wines on site, with a map of participating vendors so attendees can easily locate their favorites, and a punch card for 10 wine samples. Free appetizer tents will be provided and live bands will entertain



guests to enhance the evening. There will also be a variety of yard games sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods. So grab your friends, blankets and lawn chairs for this Grand Slam event.

For more information or to pre-purchase a ticket for Grand Slam, visit www.gardnerkansas.gov/specialevents.

Cost is \$25 at the door. A small service fee will be accessed for credit card payments.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Governing Body adopted the 2017-2018 budget during the Aug. 21, 2017, City Council Meeting. The theme is "Emerging...from Vision to Transformation," illustrating the five-year collaborative process between the city and the community to establish a vision and work that vision into the city's economic transformation underway today. View the budget at www.gardnerkansas.gov/finance.



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Messages may also be left for any Council Member or the Mayor at 913.856.0939

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Mark your calendars



City Council Meetings:

- Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.

*View more meeting dates at www.gardner-kansas.gov

Don't forget!

Boo Bash—Thursday, Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m.

The city will host its 21st annual Halloween Boo Bash at Celebration Park, 32501 W. 159th St., on Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m. Come for an evening of ghastly games, spooktacular activities, lots of candy, prizes, a hayrack ride along the park trails and more! Pumpkin decorating contest winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m., followed by a fire-eating performance. The evening will conclude with a grand prize drawing! Free pop and popcorn will be available while supplies last. Concessions will also be open for purchase of other goodies. Wristbands will be sold in advance at City Hall Oct. 9 - Oct. 26. In case of inclement weather, Boo Bash will be rescheduled for Friday, Oct. 27.

A decision will be made by noon and the rainout hotline will be updated. The public can call 913.543.5305 for this information.

To view the most current calendar of all upcoming Parks and Recreation events, scan the QR code with your phone using a QR scanner app!



UPCOMING GARDNER PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Youth Programs				
Epix Dance Classes	Mid Sept./Late Oct.	Sept. 8; Oct. 20	1.5-4 years old	\$50-\$95
Epix Tumbling Classes	Sept. 13; Oct. 25	Sept. 8; Oct. 20	2.5-6 years old	\$65
Martial Arts	Sept. 30; Nov. 4	Sept. 25; Oct. 30	6 and older	\$45-50
LTD Basketball Camps	Oct. 4; Dec. 29	Sept. 29; Dec. 22	K-12	\$65; \$30
Babysitting Clinic	Oct. 9	Oct. 2	11-16 years old	\$55
Adult/Family Programs				
Music & Movies in the Park (Band: Perpetual Change; Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory)	Sept. 9	N/A	All ages	Free
Women's Volleyball	Sept. 11	Sept. 1	18 and older	\$175
Square Dance Lessons	Sept. 12	Sept. 8	14 and older	\$40/\$20
BBQ, Bingo & Boot Scootin'	Sept. 15	Sept. 8	Adults	\$15
Walk and Read Weekend	Sept. 23-24	N/A	All ages	Free
Smoke on the Trails BBQ Event	Sept. 29	N/A	All ages	Free
Grand Slam Beer & Wine Fest *A small service fee with credit card payments.	Sept. 29	Tickets available through Sept. 29	21 and older	\$20.50 at City Hall \$22.60 Online; \$25 at the door of the event
Pumpkin Decorating Contest	Oct. 26	N/A	All ages	Supply own pumpkin
Boo Bash	Oct. 26	N/A	All ages	\$2; \$4 day of event
Chiefs Tickets	10/2, 11/26, 12/10, 12/16, 12/24	2 weeks prior to game	All ages	\$30
Mother-Son Night of Fun	Nov. 11	Nov. 3	Boys 4-12 years old	\$30 per couple (\$15 for each additional child)